



**Transit Committee
Minutes - Draft**

**Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 3, 2016**

Attending:

Committee Members: Anthony Mitchell; Vice Chair, Gary Ray; Lauren Noto; Bruce Emory; Calvin Allen; Charlton Owens; Edward Johnson; Tom Tomlin; Kim

City/ART Staff: Rose Christian; Mariate Echeverry

Community Members: Sabrah n'ha Raven, JF Packovic, Amy Cantrell, Diane Allen

3:33PM – Opening of meeting

Anthony called the meeting to order.

Review agenda – Tom motioned, Gary approved. Unanimous in favor.

Approval of 5 April 2016 Minutes with 3 changes.

Gary motioned, Tom seconded. Unanimous in favor for all changes.

3:40 PM – Public Comment

No public comment received.

3:41 PM - TC Experiences Riding the Bus

Kim Roney – April 12 – W1: state street has a lot of construction. Kudos to driver Ernest for keeping composure in avoiding an accident and successfully navigating that street. W3 consistently running 5-7 minutes late but that is probably because of traffic.

Bruce Emory – policy on bathroom breaks while on trip? Was on N2 trip through UNCA and driver stopped on campus. Rose Christian - Can stop, but have to radio dispatch. Response from driver – shorter distance to use bathroom in Brown Hall than to go from N2 slip into transit station.

Ed Johnson – there is a stop on Hendersonville road, South of 1-40 with physicians offices around it. A bench at this stop would be beneficial. There is a bench on its way for this location.

Was on a route and the driver was very chatty and missed a stop request, probably because of chatting.

Tom Tomlin – A couple of weeks ago on E2, driver asked him about bench by Burger King. Mariate – takes months to get a new shelter because of the insurance. The good news is that the Larchmont shelter was finally fixed!

3:47 PM Unfinished Business

No unfinished business.

3:48 PM New Business

Transit Priorities – Mariate - Two weeks ago there was a second work session for city council to look at the budget again. At the moment only the S3 route was included, but council included additional evening hours and additional position into the budget. Feeling confident about feasibility, which is great. Anthony asked when we will know for sure. Mariate – budget is approved at the last meeting in June. Bruce asked for timeframe, assuming budget is approved. Mariate – hiring the position is the easiest one, will take about two to three months if you get the right candidates. Depending on how the other position is moving, transit system may be able to implement changes by January 1. Will make any and all efforts to implement by January 1. Bruce also asked if a hearing is necessary – Mariate said they will determine through public interaction. Kim asked if we need to hire the position before we implement S3 route change and additional evening hours and Mariate said that the easiest thing would be to change the routes. The position may end up not being necessary or may be changed to temporary or intern depending. Will make any and all efforts to get changes up and running by January 1.

Retreat – Anthony asked about timeline of retreat. Mariate said that July is the best time because of the temporary position right now. Proposed July 5, 9-3 PM because facilitator is available. Usually the meeting for the month is cancelled and the retreat is held instead. Date was not good for transit committee. Anthony proposed the week of July 18 and throwing out a couple dates to survey transit committee for. Lauren will send out survey in Doodle form this week.

3:55 PM Staff Updates

MMTC Update – Bruce – Meeting last week. One agenda item for work relating to greenways in the River Arts District. Waiting to see if the government will approve the funding over the next couple weeks. Briefing from the consultant from AIM – was complete, lots of questions. City council will be acting on recommendations of MMTC on May 15. The AIM plan available online on city website: new feature called Open City Hall. Can look at the report and make comments online and see comments of other people. Bruce encourages everyone to take a look at the report and submit comments.

Driver Meeting Update – Third month there has been no driver's meeting. Drivers would appreciate a restart of the meeting. Anthony asked about beneficial aspects of driver's meeting. Driver responded that there are issues brought up that do not get consideration otherwise. For example, W1 and W2 buses have to deal with pot hole that extends trip length because of having to avoid this hole. Former transit employee acted as liaison between drivers and city. Calvin advised driver that he has to go through Housing Authority. Kim asked for a time to address concerns she heard from drivers. Lauren advised that transit experiences riding the bus would be a good time.

Complaint Process – Mariate – no timeframe. As soon as one is built, she will let us know.

RFP Update – Mariate - Ongoing process, no updates.

Transit Master Plan (TMP) Update – Mariate – right now it is on hold. Document is almost ready to go, but also preparing for Federal Transit Administration review in June, which is taking up a majority of the time. Visit scheduled for June 2. Are usually on location for two days. Once they are able to get out of the triennial they will be able to dedicate more time to the TMP. Transit department lost 3 people.

Suspension Policy Update – No update.

Carrying Groceries/Strollers Update – Before Yuri left, an agreement may have been reached on types of carts available. Vicki Meath – Just Economics - trying to partner with local grocery stores to get a size range and similar carts that fit with structure of the bus to make grocery trips easier for bus riders.

List of Projects – Mariate: Last week was the Bike Corral on Haywood final meeting and it was well attended. Watch for me NC campaign will begin again soon. Neighborhood sidewalk Program – first round of recommendations are under secondary review per policy. Just received 90% plans of RADTIP road improvement. Staff is going through the plans quickly to get back to the consultant. Must provide 100% in 3 or 4 weeks. Once again, this was a federal grant for these River Arts District improvements. The Transit Road Safety Audit is in the process of evaluation to see what all else needs to be done. The Transit Station Repairs are on hold. Fare changes, ART Discounts, and Paratransit Eligibility removed from the budget process. There will be no fare increase this year.

Monthly Operating Statistics – Rose: nothing additional this month. This month does have ranking and quarterly on-time performance. Rose is following the budget closely to see what the system has been spending and how it is tracking, based on last year's numbers. Reduced overtime to 9% from 20-24% over the past few months. Low fuel prices have also helped significantly. Working hard to make the system more efficient.

4:26 PM Future Agenda Items

- Try Different Meeting Times – one meeting pushed back time-wise, or another Tuesday of Month
- Advertising Policy

4:28 PM - Public Comment II:

Kim Roney – Because of the efforts of the drivers, it is concerning that there have been no driver's meetings. About to go into busy season and extreme weather season. How does communication get from drivers to decision makers?

Rose Christian – all drivers have radios, all supervisors carry radios on them, shop has radio. Communication is good. Kim – hopes that there are exit interviews when turnover happens. Rose – driver's meetings every month including union president. At the most, may have had four drivers attend out of about 46 drivers.

Diane Allen – Driver, union president. The Hyatt is now open on Haywood. Multiple detours with no change in schedule where NextBus is no longer providing accurate times for riders. Requests driver's meeting to talk about these routes this month. Haywood and French Broad are safety issues.

4:42 PM Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: June 7, 2016 – 3:30-5pm – 1st Floor Conference Room